quality of agricultural products so as to meet the needs of the ever growing population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department is consistently pursuing the issue of larger investment, to accelerate the agricultural research activities, with the Planning Commission. Against the Nineth Plan initial Outlay of Rs. 3376.95 crore, Planning Commision has given an initial allocation of Rs. 5368 crore for the Tenth Plan

Implementing the recommendations of Bovine Commission

†585.SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1726 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 2003, and state:

(a) whether the expert group set up under the Chairmanship of Joint Commissioner (CBF) in the department to examine and suggest measures for implementing the recommendations of the Bovine Commission which was to submit its report by 15th March, 2003, has since submitted the same; and

(b) if so, the actions being taken by Government to protect Bovine, the backbone of agriculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the constitutional provision, the preservation of cattle is a State subject, therefore, the States are having exclusive powers to legislate in the matter. However, enactment of Central legislation to ban cow slaughter is under consideration of the Government.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.